

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS AT  
HANDLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Handley Church of Christ for celebrating its 100th anniversary. This is a great accomplishment, and I am proud to have an establishment such as this in the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

In 1905, J. Dan Thomas invited several families to meet at his house for a worship service; this was the first meeting of the congregation of the Handley Church of Christ. Soon after, the congregation grew and became too large for the Thomas home.

Throughout the years, the congregation continued to grow and with that came the need for more space. In 1919, the church moved to a frame building with seating for 60 people. With church membership listed as 150, there was still not sufficient room. The congregation has since stayed on that property and continually added to and remodeled the building.

Today, the sanctuary will seat 1,000 people and the property includes an educational building as well as a building consisting of classrooms. The church will commemorate its 100 years by unveiling a Texas State historical marker.

As its founders intended, the Handley Church of Christ endures today as an example of a pioneer institution which has adapted itself to new surroundings and times without compromising traditional beliefs and values. As one of Tarrant County's oldest churches, it occupies an important place in the Handley community today as a symbol of endurance, stability and service.

Congratulations to the congregation at Handley Church of Christ on their anniversary. One hundred years of worship is a milestone to be celebrated.

AN EXCELLENT OP-ED ARTICLE  
ON HURRICANE KATRINA

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention an excellent op-ed article that appeared last week in the New York Times by David Brooks titled, "Katrina's Silver Lining." The op-ed article points out that the devastation which occurred earlier this month along the Gulf region now presents us with the challenge to address the roots of poverty in the United States.

Poverty was the underlying cause of the tragedy that occurred in Louisiana a couple of weeks ago. Many of the people who were unable to evacuate did not have the economic means to flee the hurricane that destroyed their city and countless lives. An individual's financial circumstance should not get in the way of life and death decisions. Low-income families should not be forced to risk their safety and well-being simply because they do not have the financial means to protect themselves.

Addressing the tragedy that occurred in New Orleans will take more than rebuilding the city's infrastructure. In order to ensure that the human suffering that has occurred never happens again, we need to address the high rates of poverty that exist in this Nation.

Every American should have the right to live a better life. We must ensure that everyone has the ability to adequately care for their families. Moreover, we need to ensure that every American has access to educational opportunities which lead to greater outcomes. And we must ensure that no one is forced to make a life and death decision based on their financial circumstance.

Early estimates suggest that thousands of Americans may have perished as a result of Hurricane Katrina and the events that occurred after the storm, while many others were injured. The families that were forced to remain in Louisiana during the storm have finally been evacuated and now faced with the difficult task of rebuilding their lives. Sadly, many of them are also desperately searching for missing loved ones.

In the wake of this disaster, let us move forward with an aggressive agenda to eradicate poverty in the United States. Let us rise to the challenge that Hurricane Katrina presented to us by removing the hurdles that force too many families to live in poverty. We can do this. The survivors of Hurricane Katrina, and the millions of other Americans who are living in poverty, deserve nothing less.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 8, 2005]

KATRINA'S SILVER LINING

(By David Brooks)

As a colleague of mine says, every crisis is an opportunity. And sure enough, Hurricane Katrina has given us an amazing chance to do something serious about urban poverty.

That's because Katrina was a natural disaster that interrupted a social disaster. It separated tens of thousands of poor people from the run-down, isolated neighborhoods in which they were trapped. It disrupted the patterns that have led one generation to follow another into poverty.

It has created as close to a blank slate as we get in human affairs, and given us a chance to rebuild a city that wasn't working. We need to be realistic about how much we can actually change human behavior, but it would be a double tragedy if we didn't take advantage of these unique circumstances to do something that could serve as a spur to antipoverty programs nationwide.

The first rule of the rebuilding effort should be: Nothing Like Before. Most of the ambitious and organized people abandoned the inner-city areas of New Orleans long ago, leaving neighborhoods where roughly three-quarters of the people were poor.

In those cultural zones, many people dropped out of high school, so it seemed normal to drop out of high school. Many teenage girls had babies, so it seemed normal to become a teenage mother. It was hard for men to get stable jobs, so it was not abnormal for them to commit crimes and hop from one relationship to another. Many people lacked marketable social skills, so it was hard for young people to learn these skills from parents, neighbors and peers.

If we just put up new buildings and allow the same people to move back into their old neighborhoods, then urban New Orleans will become just as rundown and dysfunctional as before.

That's why the second rule of rebuilding should be: Culturally Integrate. Culturally Integrate. Culturally Integrate. The only

chance we have to break the cycle of poverty is to integrate people who lack middle-class skills into neighborhoods with people who possess these skills and who insist on certain standards of behavior.

The most famous example of cultural integration is the Gautreaux program, in which poor families from Chicago were given the chance to move into suburban middle-class areas. The adults in these families did only slightly better than the adults left behind, but the children in the relocated families did much better.

These kids suddenly found themselves surrounded by peers who expected to graduate from high school and go to college. After the shock of adapting to the more demanding suburban schools, they were more likely to go to college, too.

The Clinton administration built on Gautreaux by creating the Moving to Opportunity program, dispersing poor families to middle-class neighborhoods in five other metropolitan areas. This time the results weren't as striking, but were still generally positive. The relocated parents weren't more likely to have jobs or increase their earnings (being close to job opportunities is not enough—you need the skills and habits to get the jobs and do the work), but their children did better, especially the girls.

The lesson is that you can't expect miracles, but if you break up zones of concentrated poverty, you can see progress over time.

In the post-Katrina world, that means we ought to give people who don't want to move back to New Orleans the means to disperse into middle-class areas nationwide. (That's the kind of thing Houston is beginning to do right now.)

There may be local resistance to the new arrivals—in Baton Rouge there were three-hour lines at gun shops as locals armed themselves against the hurricane victims moving to their area—but if there has ever been a moment when people may open their hearts, this is it.

For New Orleans, the key will be luring middle-class families into the rebuilt city, making it so attractive to them that they will move in, even knowing that their blocks will include a certain number of poor people.

As people move in, the rebuilding effort could provide jobs for those able to work. Churches, the police, charter schools and social welfare agencies could be mobilized to weave the social networks vital to resurgent communities. The feds could increase earned-income tax credits so people who are working can rise out of poverty. Tax laws should encourage business development.

We can't win a grandiose war on poverty. But after the tragedy comes the opportunity. This is the post-Katrina moment. Let's not blow it.

COMMENDING DEPAUL UNIVERSITY'S  
RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of DePaul University of Chicago. Founded in 1898, DePaul is the nation's largest Catholic University. This institution has a long history of public service, and is continuing this tradition in its extraordinary response to Hurricane Katrina by offering compassion, assistance, and educational opportunities to students affected by this national crisis.